



Connecticut Association of Boards of Education, Inc.

81 Wolcott Hill Road, Wethersfield, CT 06109-1242 - (860) 571-7446 - Fax (860) 571-7452 - Email admin@cabe.org

**Testimony
submitted to the**

Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee

March 30, 2022

**SB 485 AN ACT AUTHORIZING BONDS OF THE STATE FOR CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS TO
INTERDISTRICT MAGNET SCHOOLS OPERATED BY THE CAPITOL REGION EDUCATION
COUNCIL.**

The Connecticut Association of Boards of Education supports Senate Bill 485, which authorizes the use of \$20 million in state bonds for much needed capital improvement projects for CREC magnet schools. CREC does not have bonding authority for capital improvements as available to a traditional school district. CREC manages these schools on behalf of the state for Sheff-v-O'Neill, and thus should be the responsibility of the state. Without a funding mechanism from the state, CREC will need to pass these costs to local districts through increased tuition charges and this proposed legislation will help CREC fund these capital improvements without raising tuition rates for local districts.

Several CREC magnet school buildings are about 20 years old and will inevitably need repairs and improvements such as heating and cooling systems as well as roof replacements. The bonding and planning process outlined in SB 485 allows CREC to maintain the buildings in a timely fashion without adding undue costs to local districts. Without this funding mechanism, CREC would be required to increase tuition costs to our school districts to cover these costly capital improvements.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.